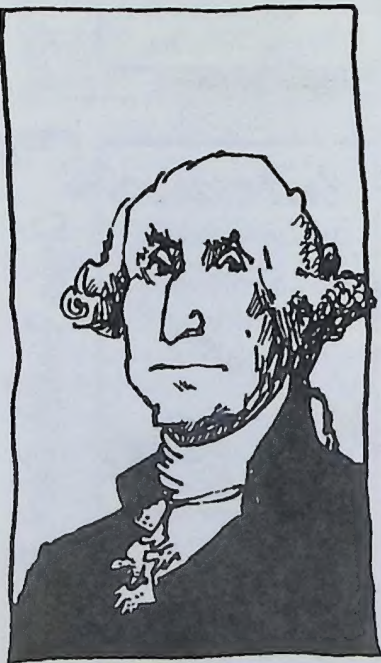


EPISODE #99  
November 4, 1993

# The Valley COMIC

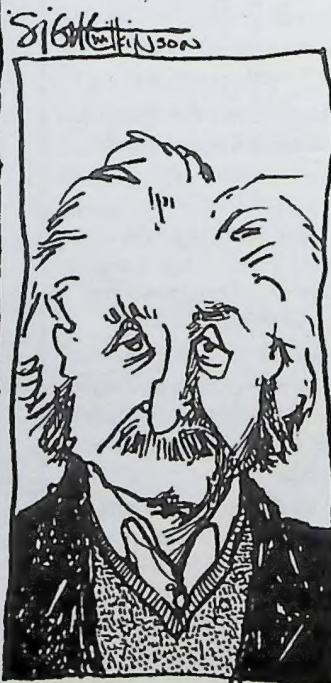
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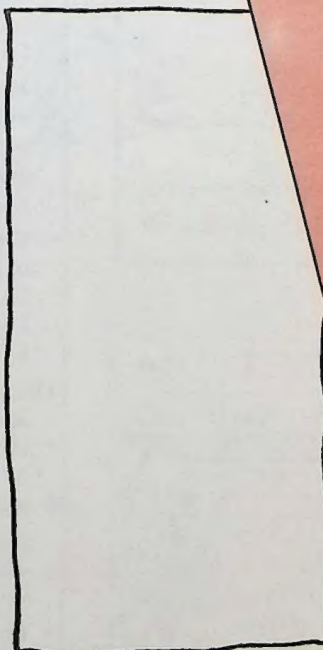
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THIS & THAT

## INSIDE

FEATURES: THE FAR SIDE,  
DOONESBURY,  
CALVIN & HOBBS,  
VIEWS OF THE WORLD,  
JOE BOB BRIGGS, LEOLD,  
IZZY GESELL'S HUMOR ME,  
THIS MODERN WORLD,  
TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT,  
L.A. CUCARACHA,  
MIKE CHRISMAN,  
LOCAL HEROES,  
EARTHWEEK



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Chilis Sweet Corn Bananas Oranges

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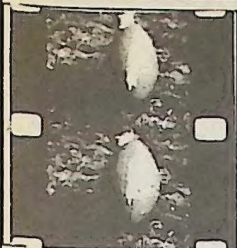
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# PAGE THREE

by Mike Chrisman



This week our muckraking microscope aims south, to Dallas, Texas, home of what -- in the glory years -- was called "America's Team" -- the Dallas Cowboys. We squint closely; a form appears. Our lens brings into focus -- yikes -- the scariest example kids could possibly have for how to be a decent human being today: it's *Jimmy Johnson*, the Cowboys' coach. I know I could be shot for saying that -- by patriots who don't believe the Bill of Rights applies when it comes to football.

But check out this background on our subject: when Jimmy Johnson was named the Cowboys' coach in 1989, one of the first things he did was tell his wife of twenty-some years he was divorcing her -- "Thanks for supporting me in the lean years, Honey; now kiss off!" Johnson has two sons; he doesn't know either of their birthdays. *Sports Illustrated* quotes this paragon of family values thusly, "'I'm doing what I want to do' he says, meaning coaching football, drinking beer, eating ribs, and living alone in a big house.... 'At least I'm not criticized for being phony. I'm just selfish.'"

So, does Mr. Selfish have any family ties? You bet. One of his sons tells a reporter, "Any special occasion we go get about a hundred dollars of Tony Roma's [barbecue] ribs, and everybody eats until they're sick." Yum. Don't get the guy wrong, though; he's quick to share with non-family members, too. After a December, 1992 loss to the Redskins, he called the team together for what SI described as "an ugly scene, with Johnson downing about 10 quick Heinekens, then loudly insulting some of the Cowboy reserves." Talk about your good times.

Here's a final passage about the Sean Penn of professional sport. Again, SI: "He bases his entire existence on winning. If he wins, he believes he can do or say whatever he feels.... Johnson admits that he neglected his now ex-wife and sons while he rose through the coaching profession. He proudly admits that he has only a few friends -- and those he has, he says, live with his moods or they find another friend."

Does anybody besides me think this guy's priorities are *majorly* out of whack? If so, are they *just afraid to say so*? Because I don't see *anybody* else mentioning that this guy is *not* the kind of person we want our kids to admire, even if he knows how to coach football. Football -- I shouldn't have to remind anybody -- ain't the game of *life*. Despite what Jimmy Johnson thinks, the rules *are* different. He may get fabulous grades as a coach, but in life, this guy gets a D, barely. Yet every weekend we get the same TV hype -- "America's Team is back, and Jimmy Johnson is at the helm."

I'm reminded of the late Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Earl Warren. During the Cuban missile crisis, when lots of people thought the bombs were gonna fly big time, Warren was with a bunch of people being briefed about the special elite mega-secret underground shelters that'd protect all the big shots from The Big One. When told that nine slots had been allocated for the nine Court members, Warren asked, "What about our wives?" "No room for wives," came the answer. "Well, then, said the great man, 'it looks like you've got one extra slot, because I won't be using mine.'"

Is this too heavy-handed a analogy? Tough noogies. Because if Jimmy Johnson is indeed the coach of American's Team, America is in deep doo-doo.

## The Valley Comic News

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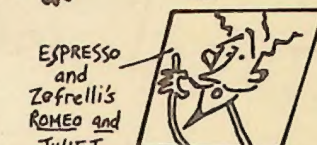
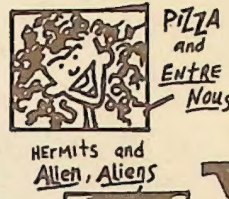
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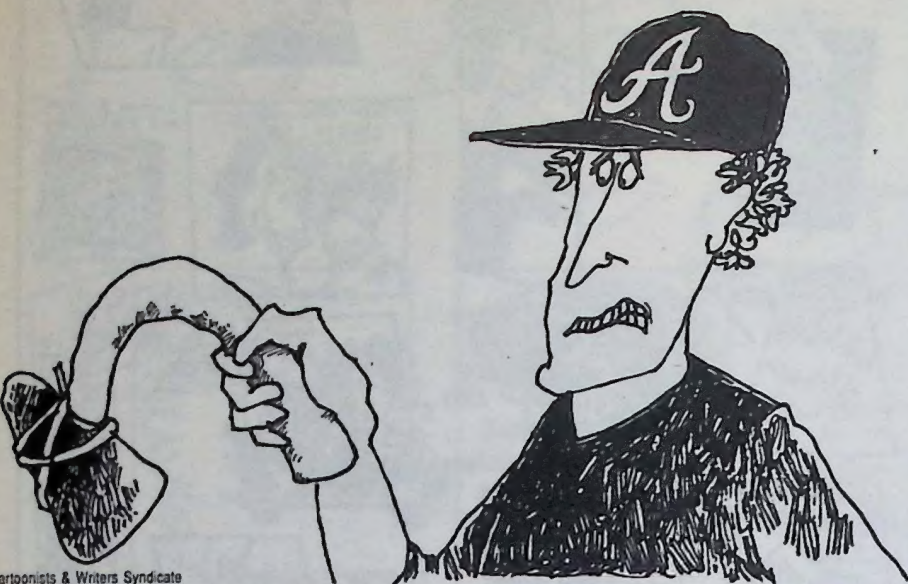


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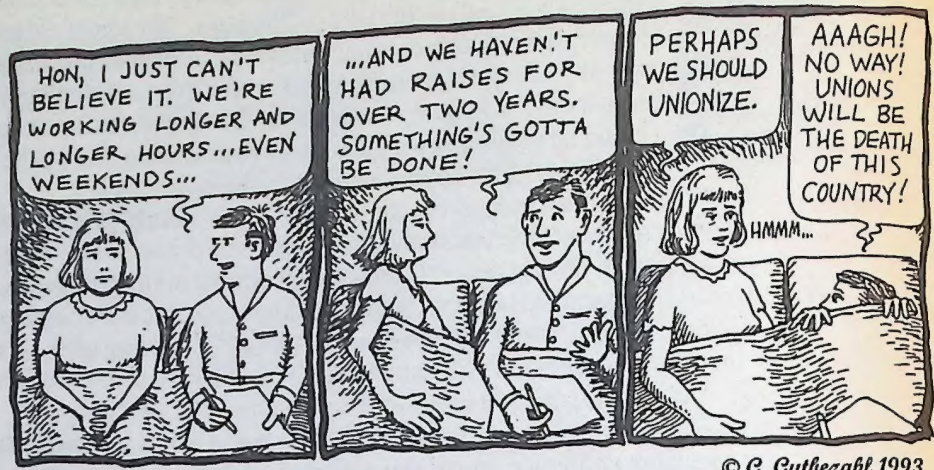
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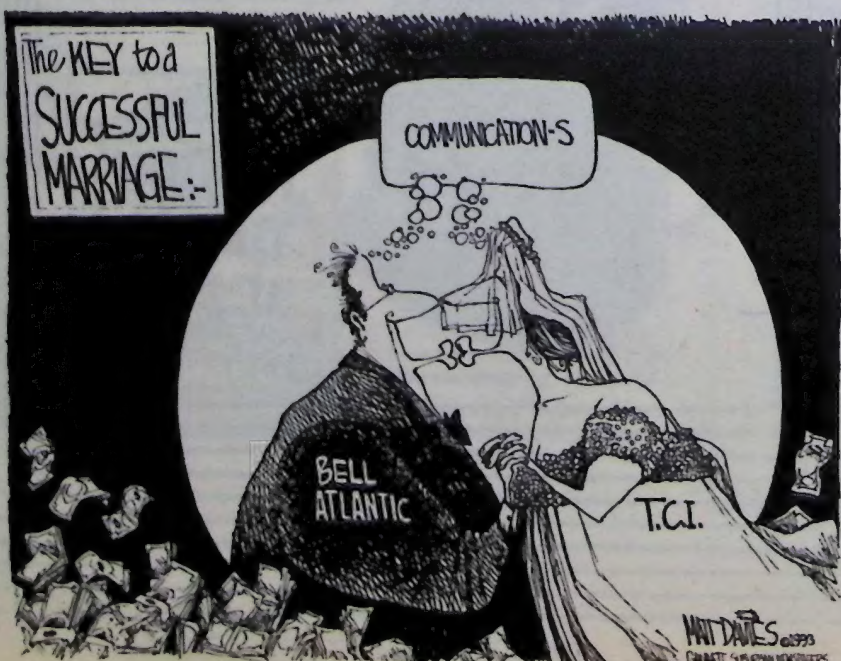


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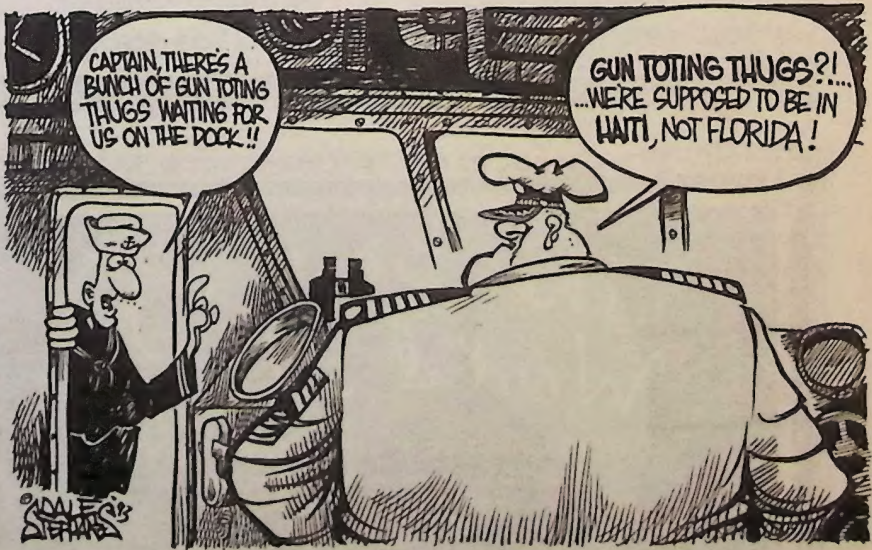
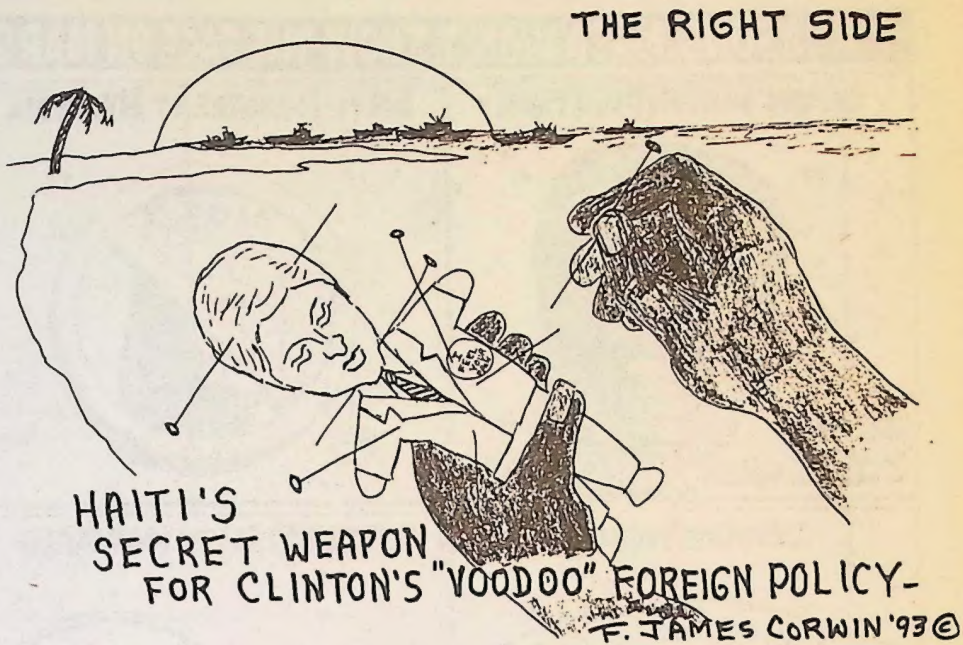
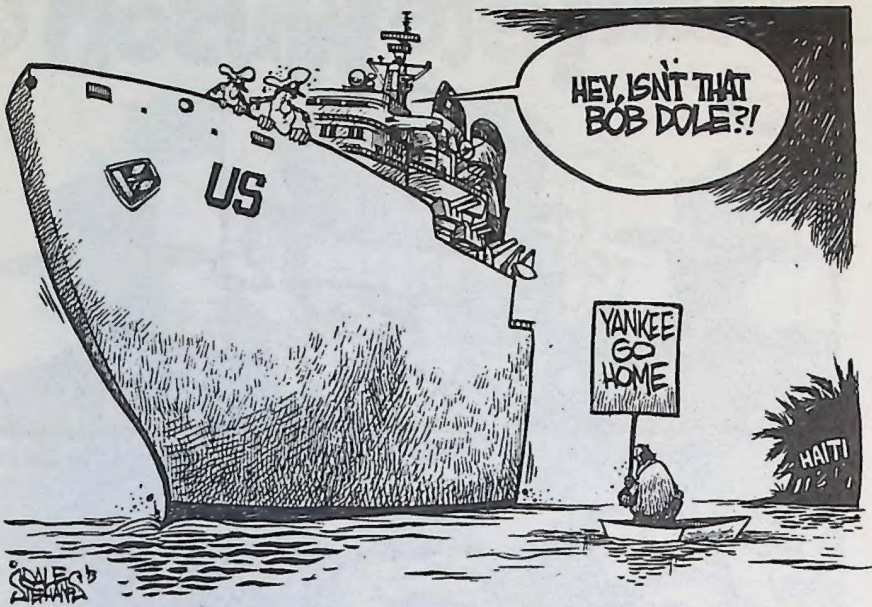


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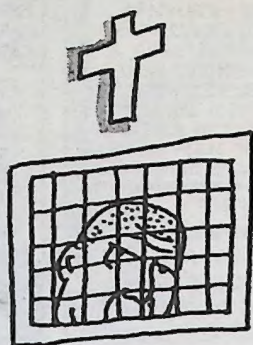
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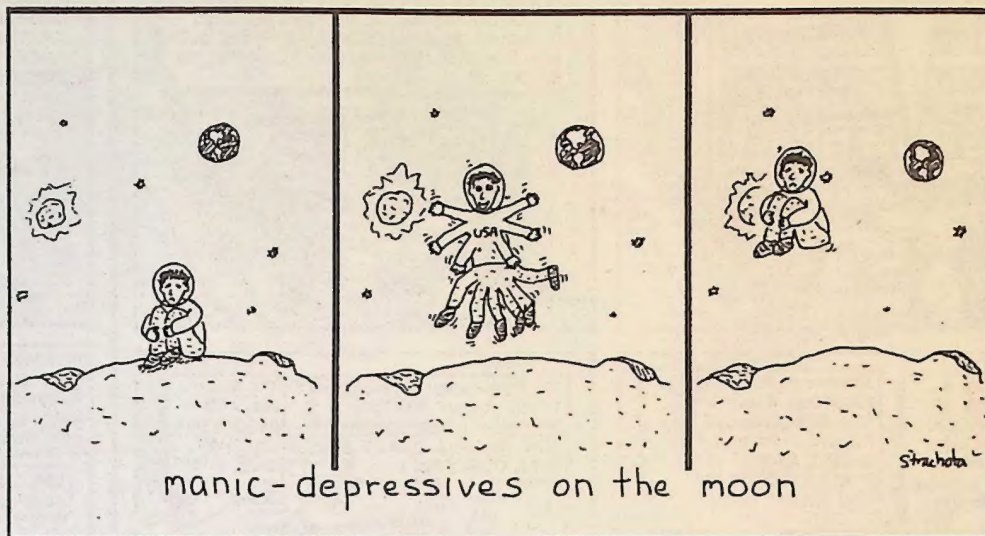
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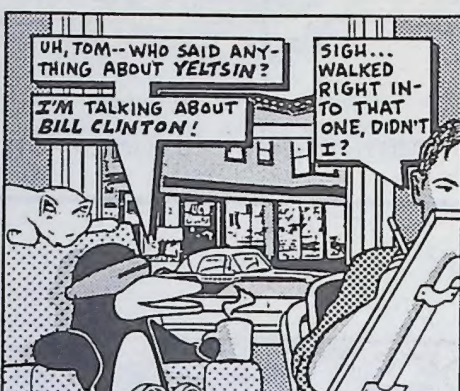


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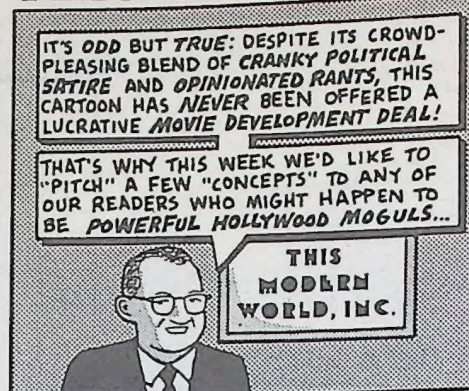
CAUGHT BETWEEN A WOK AND A LARD WAIST

# THIS MODERN WORLD BY TOM TOMORROW

## THIS MODERN WORLD T.M.T.M.R.W.93



## THIS MODERN WORLD T.M.T.M.R.W.93

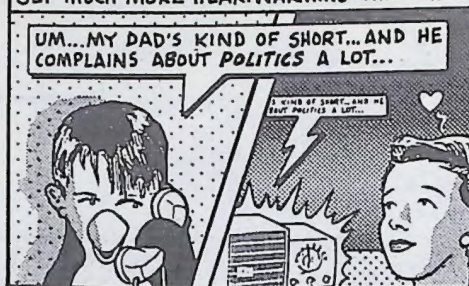


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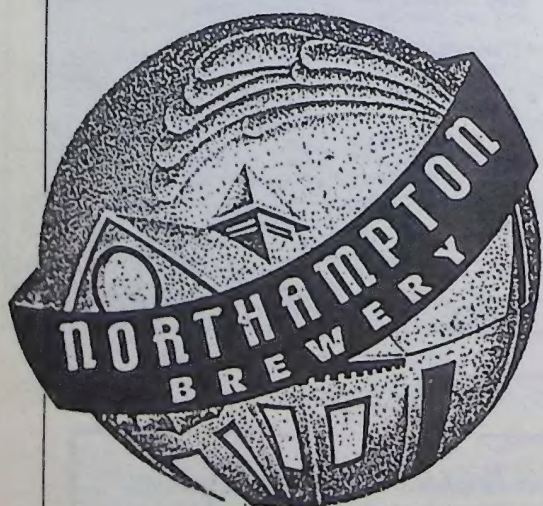
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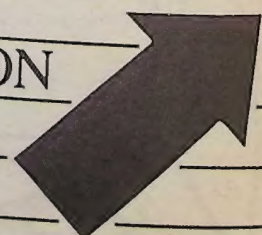
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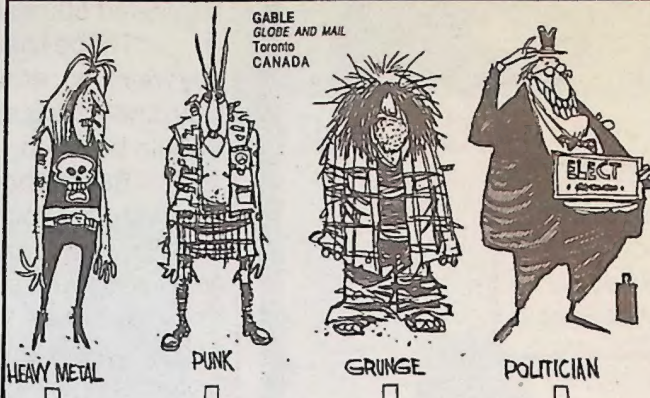
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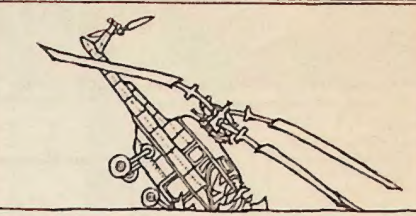
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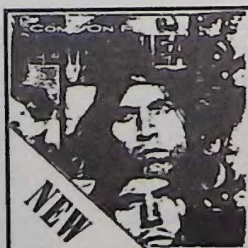
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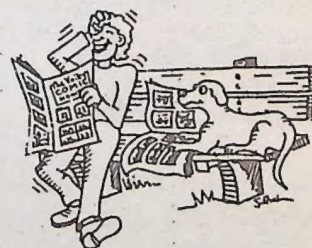


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## JOE BOB BRIGGS

They have these scientists who are constantly trying to figure out what happened 500 million years ago.

I hope I never meet one of these guys. What if I'd just spent the whole day watching reruns of "Beavis and Butthead"? It would be *embarrassing*. He would be talking about the evolutionary diversity of the Cambrian period, and I would be talking about the time Butthead put a cherry bomb under a cat.

But anyhow, in an effort to improve myself, I've been reading about this new discovery that all the forms of life as we know it were created in about a million years, and then ever since then, for the *other* 499 million years, we never have gotten back to that great start. In the first million, we had more kinds of animals, vegetables, trees, fish, monkeys, mangoes, and muskrats. And then, ever since then, we've just been tinkering around with the same old life forms—killing off a few species here and there, growing a few new flippers on the gill creatures, inventing the infomercial.

And the attitude of these scientists is, "Isn't this fascinating to see what evolution can do?"

And *my* attitude is, "Yeah, it's leading us straight into the *toilet*." Why don't you just show us some time-lapse photography of how our hair falls out? *Same difference.*

How can you read these articles and conclude that evolution is a *good* thing? Don't you notice that every 20 years, *more* of the population needs glasses? We can't remember anything. Our hearts give out. All the rhinoceroses die off. Every time we conquer a disease, ten new ones spring up. People actually *pay* for subscriptions to U.S. News & World Report.

In other words, it's *obvious* to me what direction we're going in, and we don't have too many exits on the interstate left. You know what I mean here?

Fundamentalists are always getting mad when they teach evolution in the schools. Shoot, evolution should make a religious man *happy*. He can point to how everything's going to hell in a handbasket and then say, "Look, son, we used to look like gorillas, but we were nicer people. Smarter people."

Who *cares* whether we looked like gorillas or not?

What was the gorilla-man *thinking*? That's my question.

Maybe he knew stuff that we don't. Maybe God invented evolution to make us feel small so we'd need him.

Because I don't know about you, but when I think of there being three and a half billion years *before* 1993, and at least 500 million of those were really a lot better than *this* year, it's kind of hard to get worked up over Madonna's new album.

What I'm saying is:

We're tiny.

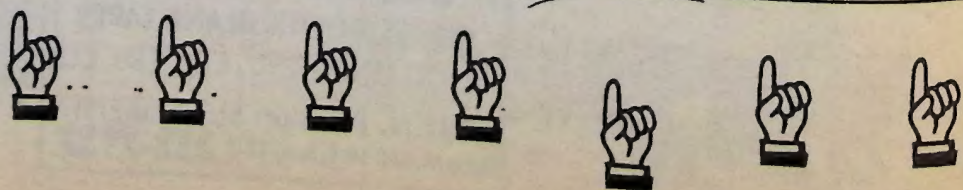
We're used up.

We're about over, from what I can tell.

But think of it this way. When we're searching for that last little scrap of ego to build us back up, we can always scream out, "At least I lasted longer than those wimp *dinosaurs*."

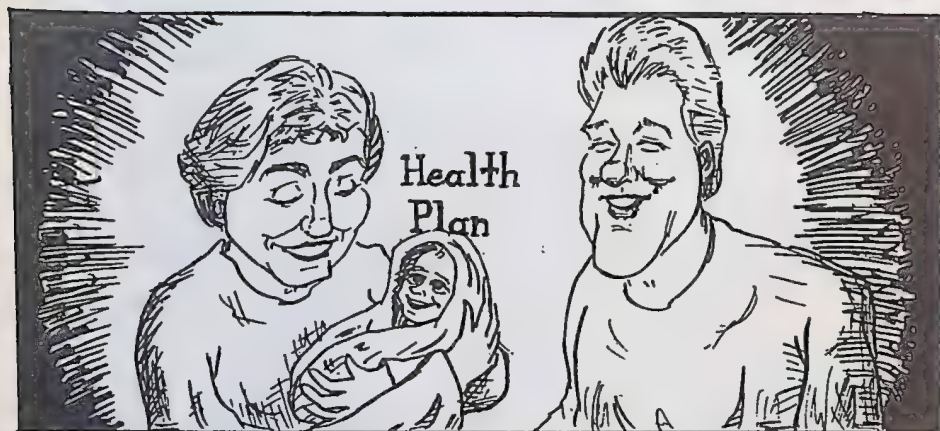
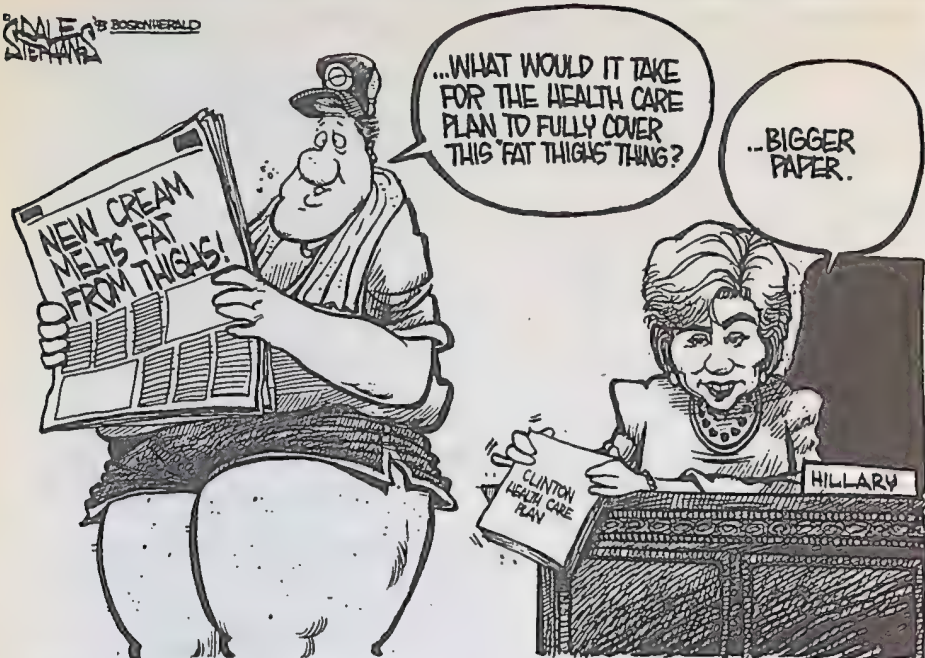
Because, believe me, we won't go quietly.

To discuss the meaning of life with Joe Bob, or to get his world-famous newsletter, write Joe Bob Briggs, P.O. Box 2002, Dallas, TX 75221. Joe Bob's FAX line is always open: 214-368-2310. COPYRIGHT CREATORS SYNDICATE, INC.



# IN SICKNESS & IN HEALTHCARE

SMILE BY BOSKOWSKI



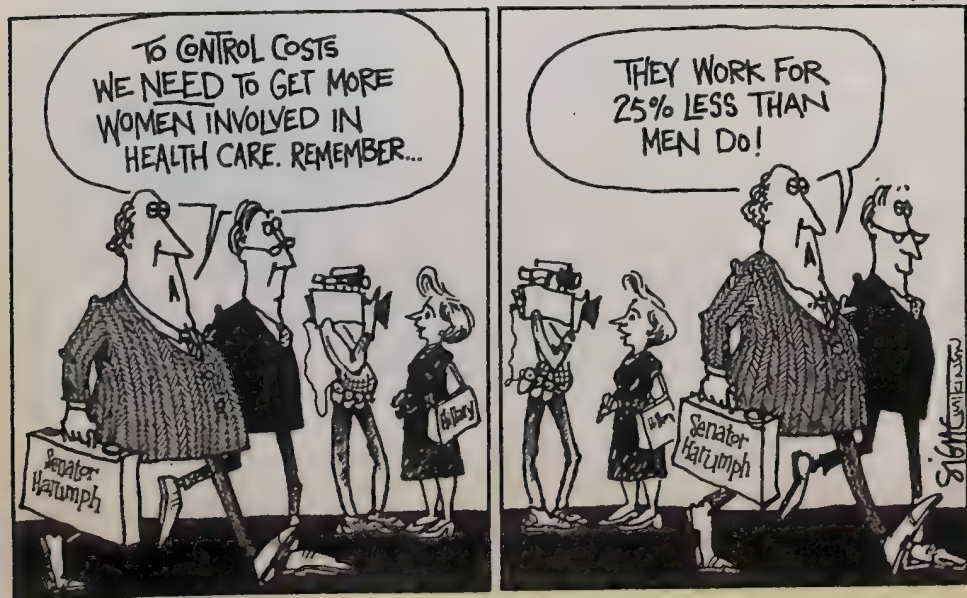
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Greg Gutbezah of Brooklyn, NY, peruses *The Valley Comic News* high atop the Cascade mountain range, in Washington, with formerly much taller Mt. St. Helens in the background.

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# TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT by L.M. Boyd

On New Year's Eve of 1926, Kemal Ataturk, father of modern Turkey, replaced the old Turkish calendar that showed the year then to be 1344. When his countryfolk awoke the next morning, it was 582 years later.

Q. Isn't "honcho" a Mexican term for "boss"?

A. Nope. It comes from the Japanese, and means "squad leader" — brought back from the American occupation of Japan.

According to a professor at the University of Kansas Medical Center, habitual drug users tend to fall into two categories — the angry and the lonely.

The loon can swim underwater faster than most fish. That's how it eats.

One ambitious woman said her goal was to become so successful in her job that she could "knit at the office without anybody telling me not to."

Not every balding Roman in days of yore could afford a wig. So a lot of them just painted hair where the scalp shined through.

The typical speed of a falling raindrop is 20 mph.

Q. What kind of wild animal kills the most bears?

A. The porcupine. If its quills stick in the bear's tongue, the bear can starve to death.

Reported life expectancy in Afghanistan is 37.

Both male and female pigeons sit on the eggs. The mother takes the night shift.

Researchers report that men go to the supermarket more frequently than women. The reason? More women than men take lists.

Q. What became of the inventor of Nylon?

A. Wallace Hume Carothers killed himself in 1937, the same year DuPont applied for the patent on Nylon.

Scientists, using instruments that measure rapid eye movement, have discovered that when you stop smoking, you dream more.

The color "buff" is a dull yellow. It was the color of leather made from buffalo hides.

Brazilians like avocados for breakfast.

Most people who list their marriages as "very happy" in the psychological surveys use the same phrase to describe their parents' marriages.

Q. Which of a keyboarder's hands does the most work?

A. Word processing: Left, with 60 percent of the keystrokes. Accounting: Right, with 97 percent of the keystrokes.

Canada is the most sparsely populated country in the world.

A forensic pathologist can identify the body of a professional trumpet player by examining the hands.

Much of the Helsinki Airport and a lot of other major construction projects in Finland were built with the hard labor of convicted drunk drivers. Conviction there gets three months on a work crew.

An elephant's pulse is about 40.

Q. One of the first cars to use a steering wheel instead of a tiller was the "Reo." Where'd that name come from?

A. The initials of famed auto maker Ransom Eli Olds.

A gopher is called a gopher because early French settlers called the animal "gaufre," or "honeycomb," after the structure of its den.

An airplane's shadow is virtually the same size regardless of its altitude.

The percentage of registered nurses who smoke cigarettes is higher than the percentage of women who smoke in most other professions.

When Malaysians point, they do it with the thumb, not the forefinger.

It's the youngsters between 2 and 12 who are most likely to get carsick.

Half the people who move from one house to another do so because of job changes.

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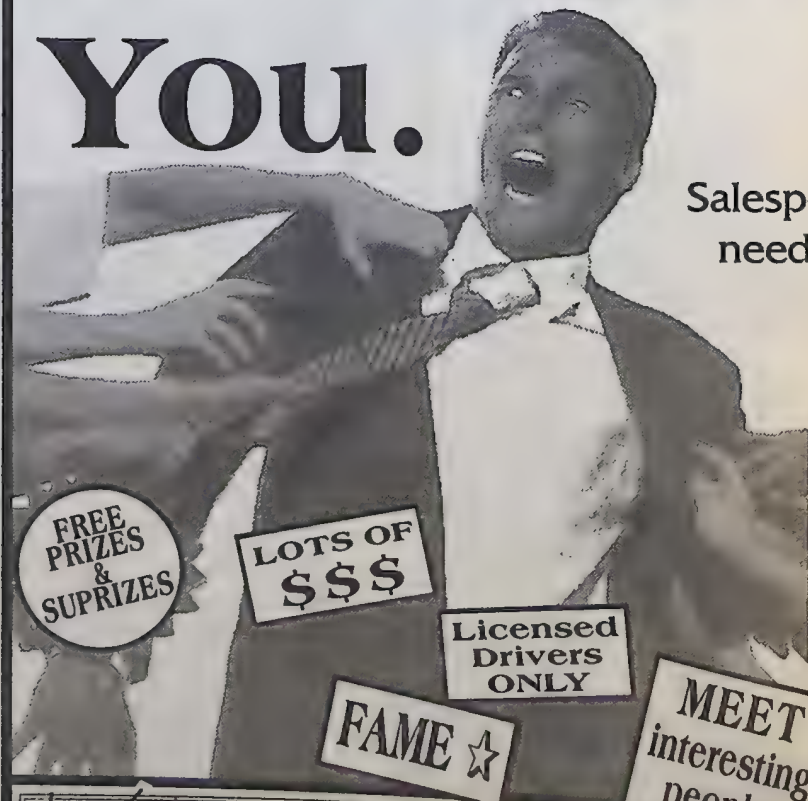
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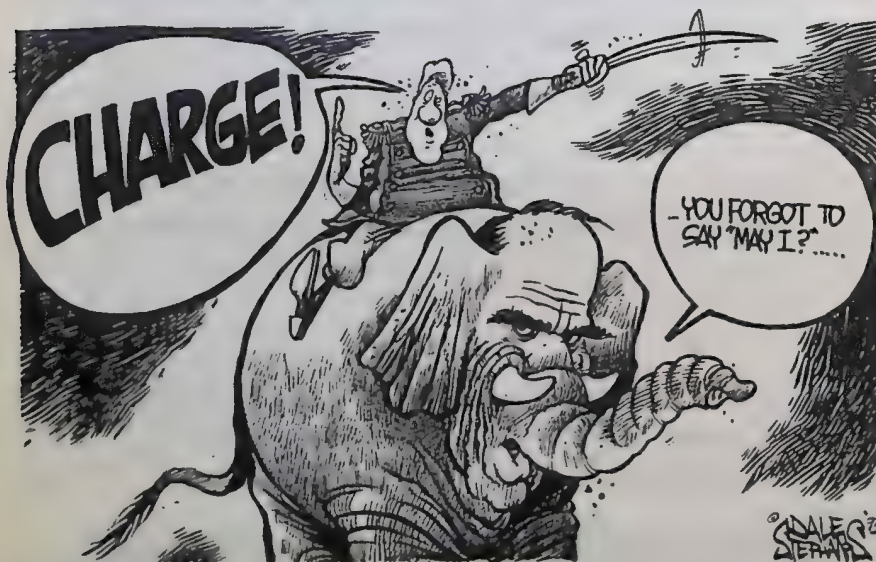
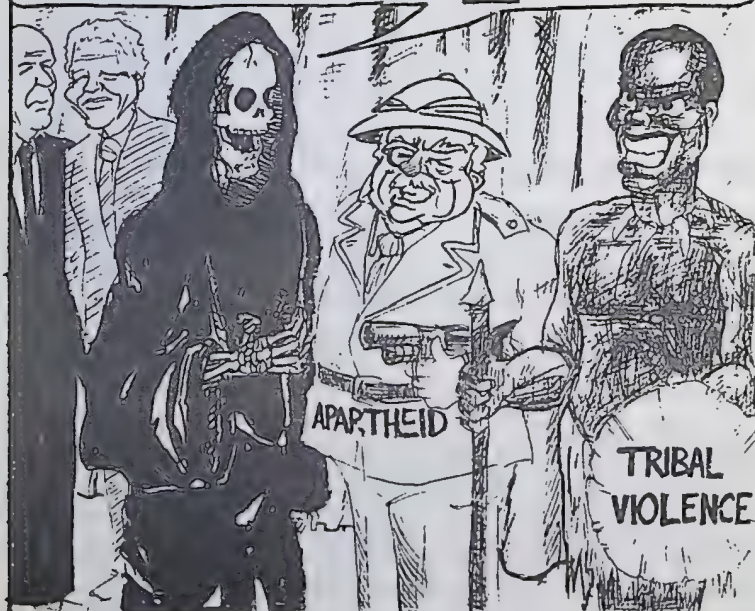
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# Live Shows



**THU**  
FOUR

Vertex: Selectrocution Seven O's: karaoke night North Star: Latin Night, w/ DJ Alberto UMass New World Theatre: A Dream of Canaries Pearl Street: Industrial dance party, plus hip-hop dance music by Spin, Inc. Bay State Hotel: Electric Noodle Factory Iron Horse: Boukman Eksperyans UMass Theatre Guild: Black Comedy The Hatch at UMass: Zen Cats

**FRI**  
FIVE

Pearl Street: Merl Sanders & The Rainforest Band, Yep!, plus dance party w/ DJ Pete Iron Horse: Vast Ed Vadas & The Fabulous Heavyweights Bay State Hotel: Ray Mason Band, Naked Lunchbox, Super 8, featuring Ellen Cross & Dave Champagne Montague Bookmill: Tom McClung & Andy Jaffee UMass New World Theatre: A Dream of Canaries Seven O's: Sundown Green River Cafe: John Sheldon & Blue Streak Vertex: W. Mass Battle of the Bands — Moriah, Behemoth, Tribal Spine, Puddywad, Rapid Symphony UMass Theatre Guild: Black Comedy Charlemont Inn: Bill Krauss North Star: dance party w/ DJ Betsey Peking Garden/Humor Works: showcase & open mic Amherst College: disappear fear, w/ Justina & Joyce Mullins Center: Firesign Theatre

**SAT**  
SIX

Seven O's: Sundown Vertex: Selectrocution Green River Cafe: Salamander Crossing Hotel Northampton: Jac Veronesi, Gisele L'Italien UMass Theatre Guild: Black Comedy Iron Horse: Wholesale Klezmer Band Charlemont Inn: Nightcrawlers Bay State Hotel: Alloy, Squeek, The Tulips UMass New World Theatre: A Dream of Canaries Pearl Street: Roomful of Blues (25th Anniversary Tour) North Star: Dance Party Nite

**SUN**  
SEVEN

Green River Cafe: George "Moonlight" Davis & Morningstar Bay State Hotel: The Poster Children, Eric's Trip, Red Red Meat Northampton Brewery: Seishun 1st anniversary party North Star: Girlz Night Out w/ DJ Betsey Iron Horse: Michael Hedges UMass Fine Arts Center: Ballet Nacional de Caracas — the Firebird Seven O's: open mic Amherst College: Matthew Sweet Northampton Center for the Arts: Northampton Vaudeville Festival — Michael Wald, Robert King, Izzy Gesell, Foolsproof, John Porcino, Pozey the Clown, The Games Man

**MON**  
EIGHT

Bay State Hotel: Blue Monday, w/ Ed Vadas & The Fabulous Heavyweights Vertex: Gay Nite w/ DJ Steve North Star: country/western dance nite Iron Horse: The Cactus Brothers (free show) Green River Cafe: Soup, Blair's Carriage, Rob Skelton Banned

**TUE**  
NINE

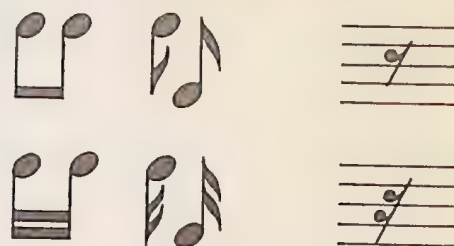
Iron Horse: Charmaine Neville North Star: Boyz Night Out w/ DJ Mike Bay State Hotel: Homestead Records Presents — Caspar Brötzman Massaker, New Radiant Storm King UMass New World Theatre: A Dream of Canaries

**WED**  
TEN

Northampton Brewery: Amy Fairchild Pearl Street: Gay Night — dancing to music by Spin, Inc. North Star: swing dance UMass New World Theatre: A Dream of Canaries Bay State Hotel: Small Factory, The Nightblooms, Throw That Beat Into The Garbage Can Green River Cafe: Paul Richmond & Jody Scalise



Tobey photo



**Guru, of Gang Starr, with the Jazzmatazz Review, at Pearl Street**

**THU**  
ELEVEN

**Vertex:** Selectrocution **North Star:** Latin Night w/ DJ Alberto **Bay State Hotel:** Half Japanese, Envelope, The Veronica Cartwrights **UMass New World Theatre:** A Dream of Canaries **Seven O's:** karaoke night **Iron Horse:** Wynton Marsalis **Pearl Street:** Colonel Bruce Hampton & Aquarian Rescue Unit, plus 18+ hip-hop dancing to music by Spin, Inc.

**FRI**  
TWELVE

**Green River Cafe:** The Bobby Darling Show **Iron Horse:** Big Waaagh Scratch Band (album pre-release party) **Montague Bookmill:** Mary McCaslin **Charlemont Inn:** Art Steele Blues Band **UMass New World Theatre:** A Dream of Canaries **Peking Garden/Humor Works:** showcase & open mic **Bay State Hotel:** Amherst rock dance party **North Star:** Dance Party Nite **Seven O's:** Slippery Moon **Pearl Street:** Graham Parker, Ray Maçon **Vertex:** dance party

**SAT**  
THIRTEEN

**Iron Horse:** Northern Lights **Green River Cafe:** Jeff Warner & Jeff Davis **Seven O's:** Slippery Moon **Vertex:** Selectrocution **Pearl Street:** The Outlaws **UMass New World Theatre:** A Dream of Canaries **UMass Fine Arts Center:** Hezekiah Walker & The Love Fellowship Crusade Choir **Hotel Northampton:** Hal Benoit **Bay State Hotel:** Pajama Slave Dancers, Rock Gods of Chicopee, Raymond & The Circle **Charlemont Inn:** Virginia & The Wolves

**SUN**  
FOURTEEN

**Seven O's:** Open mic **UMass Fine Arts Center:** Fred Penner **Iron Horse:** The Iguanas **Green River Cafe:** Hats Off Performers Guild — Foolsproof, Waffles the Clown, Michael Wald, Pozey the Clown **Northampton Brewery:** Steve Westfield, The Little Bollocks **Amherst College:** The Story

**MON**  
FIFTEEN

**North Star:** Country/Western Nite **Pearl Street:** Cracker **Vertex:** Gay Nite, w/ DJ Steve **Bay State Hotel:** Blue Monday, w/ Ed Vadas & The Fabulous Heavyweights **Iron Horse:** Ovation Guitars: clinic & concert (free)

**TUE**  
SIXTEEN

**Pearl Street:** X **North Star:** Boyz Night Out w/ DJ Mike **Iron Horse:** Robben Ford & The Thin Blue Line, Roy Rogers & Delta Rhythm Kings **Bay State Hotel:** Bay State Jazz (no cover)

**WED**  
SEVENTEEN

**Bay State Hotel:** Puppet Museum (no cover) **Pearl Street:** Gay Night w/ music by Spin, Inc. **Northampton Brewery:** Louise Taylor **North Star:** Swing dancing **Iron Horse:** Robert Hunter **Green River Cafe:** Brelsford-Redlinger Duo **UMass Fine Arts Center:** San Francisco Symphony

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## EARTHWEEK: A DIARY OF THE PLANET

By Steve Newman

### Marsh-War

The U.S. State Department announced that the government of Iraq is systematically destroying the environment in the south of the country in an effort to wipe out the "Marsh Arabs" who have inhabited the region since the dawn of western civilization. Dramatic CIA satellite photos show that vast stretches at the confluence of the Tigris and Euphrates, home to a separate culture of fishermen and reed dwellers since Sumerian times, have been transformed into desert during the past three years. The government of Saddam Hussein has dug earthworks to keep water from the Tigris from replenishing the marshes, as well as a canal to drain water into the Tigris, according to Andrew Whitley, director of Middle East Watch. "All the water is simply dumped into the Persian Gulf. This is not an irrigation project," said Whitley.

### Ozone Hole

Seasonal ozone depletion high over Antarctica hit new record lows during early October. Scientists monitoring the protective layer say that 60 percent of it has been destroyed over the heart of the polar continent by man-made gasses and pollution. World Meteorological Organization Secretary General G.O.B. Obasi renewed his appeal to the international community to phase out all ozone-depleting chemicals.

### Texas Twisters

Several waves of severe thunderstorms unleashed tornadoes and heavy flooding across parts of Texas and western Louisiana. One storm spawned a tornado which ripped through Del Rio, in southwest Texas, damaging several buildings. One man died when a twister ripped through his trailer home in the east Texas community of Emory.

### Floods

A network of levees built during the 1850s by Napoleon III's engineers collapsed under the weight of heavy rains, swamping one sixth of the French region of La Camargue. Recent downpours pushed the Rhone River to its highest level in decades, weakening the levees and flooding more than 30,000 acres.

Fifteen people drowned in streams and rivers swollen from three days of torrential rains in South Africa's Natal province.

### Earthquakes

Further strong quakes struck areas of northern Papua New Guinea following two disastrous temblors the previous week which killed as many as 160 people.

Earth movements were also felt in Azerbaijan, the southern Philippines, western Nepal, and north-eastern Ohio.

### Drought

While much of the rest of Europe has been deluged with incessant heavy rain this year, Athens has only enough water to last another month as the worst Greek drought this century continues. Officials examined the options of replenishing the main Mornos reservoir from a lake in western Greece or transporting water in tankers from rivers and springs north of Athens.

Thousands of residents in Papua New Guinea face starvation following an extended dry spell which has dried up lakes and food gardens. Water and hydroelectric power to the capital, Port Moresby, is being cut off for a few hours each day.

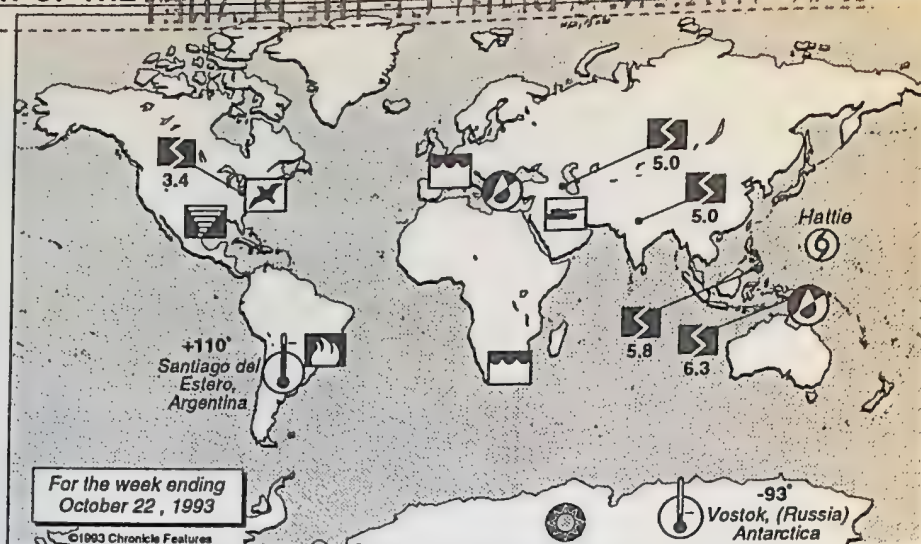
### Wildfires

A fire raging through the Poco das Antas reserve east of Rio de Janeiro threatens the last remaining wild colony of 250 golden lion tamarins.

### Avian Escort

A flock of naive Canadian geese left a captive breeding site in southern Ontario with an airborne human guide to help them learn how to get to winter nesting grounds in Virginia. Pilot Bill Lishman hand-raised the geese for this flight, exposing them regularly to his ultralight aircraft. The "imprinting" process made the geese believe he and the plane were their parents. "They love flying with the plane because they can get a free flight part of the time (from the updrafts)," Lishman bragged. If the experimental flight works with the plentiful geese, Lishman hopes it can be used to save endangered species such as whooping cranes. There are so few cranes left that they are hatched in captivity and do not learn from their parents where to fly within warmer climates.

Additional Sources: U.S. Climate Analysis Center, U.S. Earthquake Information Center, and the World Meteorological Organization.



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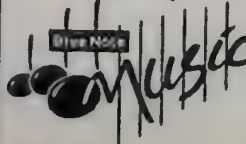
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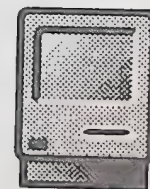
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## October Blazes

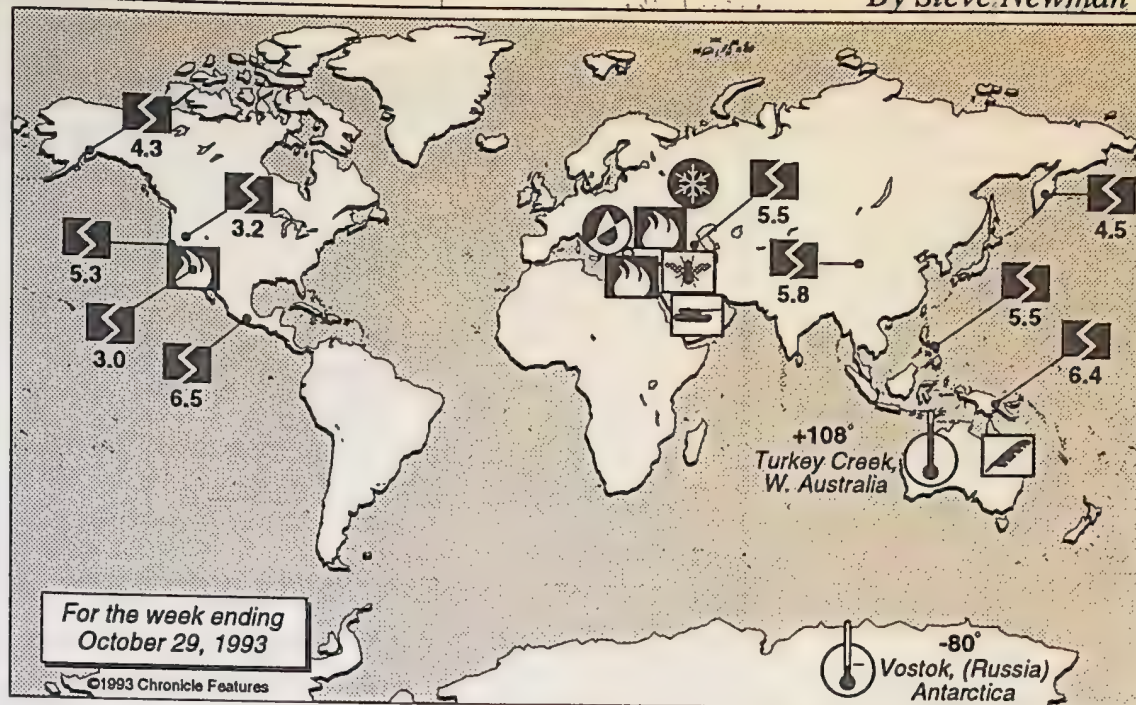
 Hot Santa Ana winds whipping through mountain passes in Southern California fanned wildfires into conflagrations which damaged or destroyed hundreds of homes and sent thousands of residents fleeing to safety. A cycle of winter floods and summer heat left abundant, tinder-dry vegetation available to feed the blazes. The fires were so powerful that they created "fire devils," — eerie tornadoes of smoke and flames that spread the front lines of the disaster at a frightening pace.

A late October heat wave in the Middle East is blamed for several forest fires in Lebanon and Syria. Large tracts of precious Lebanese cedar trees were destroyed.


The hottest October weather since 1921 across the southern Ukraine sparked grass-and-forest fires around the coastal resort of Yalta. Officials urged citizens to dig trenches around the city to prevent the fire from reaching their homes.

## Gulf War Legacy

 Oil-well fires set by retreating Iraqis during the Gulf War left a layer of plant-choking soot that has spread over almost a third of the country. Much of the affected area is coated with what scientists call "tarcrete" — oil vapor from burning wells mixed with soot and sand that hardened into a four-inch-thick covering. "This is the first time in history that something like this has happened on this scale," said Farouk El-Baz, director of the Center for Remote Sensing at Boston University, in an address to the Geological Society of America. The substance kills all vegetation and releases sand and dust, which in turn form sand dunes. "The real danger is the mobilization of sand on the desert's surface, where dunes have already formed in less than a year and continue to threaten roads and farms," El-Baz warned.




## Earthquakes


 A strong quake measuring about 6.5 on the Richter scale struck a wide area from Acapulco to Mexico City, rattling buildings and alarming residents, but there were no reports of damage or injuries.

Earth movements were also felt in Papua New Guinea, the Kamchatka Peninsula, the eastern Philippines, Azerbaijan, western China's Qinghai Province, Oregon, southern Alaska, and in northern and southern parts of California.

## Airborne Menace


 Life for many residents along the Jordan-Israeli border has been made miserable by swarms of flies which spawned in unsterilized chicken fertilizer used by Jordanian farmers. The insects have spread diarrhea and stomach ailments through the population, and have hindered agricultural production.

## Early Snow


 The heaviest early snowfall this century halted the fall harvest in Russia's middle Volga region. The snow, covering one third of the entire potato crop, is not expected to melt in time to allow further harvesting. Grain crops are expected to spoil since combine harvesters will no longer be able to work the fields.

Local farmers also have been unable to plow for winter crops, threatening the next harvest as well.

## Drought

 The water shortage in Greece has become so severe that Athens is facing widespread power failures following six months without rain. Dust particles have lodged in transformers and other electrical devices, leading to short circuits and explosions in the evenings when the humidity suddenly rises. Few of the capital's traffic lights work properly.

## Guard Chickens

 Chickens have been stationed in Australia's tropical north to warn of the invasion of mosquitoes carrying diseases such as dengue fever. Health officials announced that 80 birds, known as "sentinel hens," were placed on the outskirts of Rockhampton on the central Queensland coast. "We have four flocks of 20 hens, one on the city's northern border, and they will take the frontal attack from the mosquitoes as they come into the city," said Greg Merry, chief health officer with the city council. Three other flocks stationed to the east form a spearhead for the seaborne mosquitoes. Blood samples from the hens, which contract the diseases after being bitten by the insects, are being checked regularly to detect the arrival of the mosquitoes.

Additional Sources: U.S. Climate Analysis Center, U.S. Earthquake Information Center, and the World Meteorological Organization.

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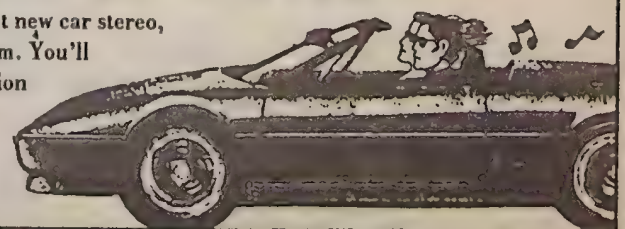
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## Leold by Roger & Salem Salloom

*For 15 years, every year on my birthday, my mom calls the doctor who delivered me.*

*She usually tells him little stories about how I've been doing lately, what I look like, how well I'm doing in school, whether I've been seeing a girl nowadays...*

*Last year he told her to stop calling.*

*Kind of makes me feel abandoned.*



## humor me

by Izzy Gesell

Dear Izzy,

I recently heard about the secret mind controls the movie and TV honchos have subliminally placed into their products. Now I'm afraid to go to the movies or watch TV because I might be forced to do something against my will. What should I do?

Worried in Wausau

Dear Worried,

Not to worry. Everyone knows movies, TV, talk radio and rap music are the source of all evil. I suggest you start cataloguing each film, song, TV and radio show you come across. If you ever get into trouble, you'll have the source of your problem readily available. A diary is perfect for this. However, I don't recommend it if you plan on going into politics.

Dear Izzy,

My friends and I recently saw a film in which members of a high school sky-diving team jumped from the top of the Empire State Building without parachutes to prove their solidarity with each other. My gang would like to do this too, but my mother thinks it's a bad idea. She claims just because my friends want to jump off the Empire State Building doesn't mean I have to do it too. Is she right?

Fearful in Framingham

Dear Fearful,

Your mother has been waiting all her life to say those words to you. No wonder you're fearful. I'll bet she denied you a BB gun because she thought you'd shoot your eye out. You still don't go swimming right after you eat, do you? Stop whining. Friends are all you need to get by. If they tell you to jump, you jump. If they tell you to lie down in the middle of the road, you do it. Start thinking for yourself, bucko, and you'll find yourself mighty lonely. Always go with the crowd.

Dear Izzy,

New York was able to get a convicted murderer returned to that state from Oklahoma, where he was set to die for an unrelated murder, in order to serve a 20-years-to-life sentence. Which state do you think should punish him?

Puzzled in Paducah

Dear Puzzled,

Neither. The creep killed two elderly people, so his punishment should be to live out his days as an elderly person in a condemned nursing home. He should have cotton permanently implanted in his ears so he can't hear well, Vaseline rubbed onto his eyeballs so he can't see well, his teeth pulled out so he can't chew well, a vibrator dropped down his pants so he's constantly shaking, and an audio tape of the ocean continually playing so he perpetually needs to go the bathroom.

Dear Izzy,

Last week, I arrived home just as my telephone was ringing. I answered and heard my friend Sue stutter, "Uh, uh, I didn't expect you to be home. I was just going to leave a message on your machine." She asked me to hang up so she could call back and talk to the machine. Standing there, listening to her talk to me (but not really to me) made me want to get rid of the answering machine, call waiting, call forwarding, and car phone. I just couldn't stand to be rejected like that again. Am I phonophobic?

Disconnected in Des Moines

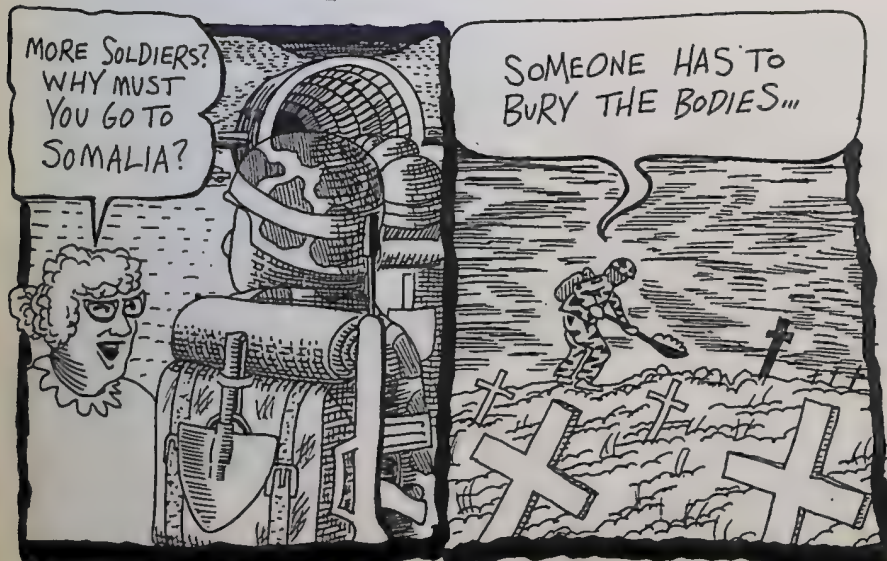
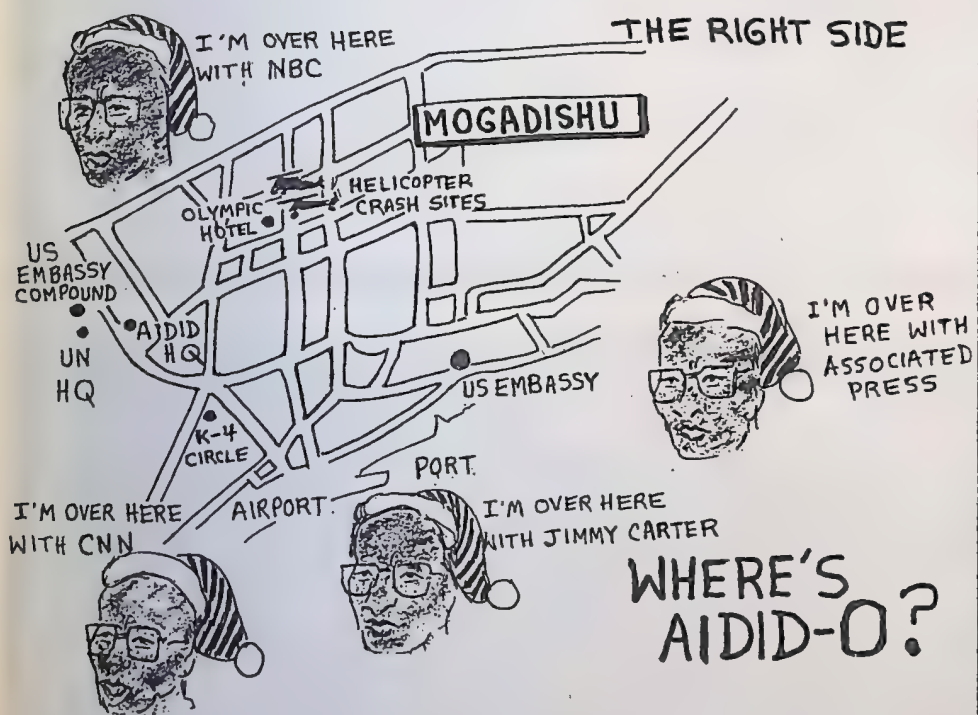
Dear Dis,

Yes, but so what? The ideal vacation is one without phone access. The real purpose of an answering machine is to remind us how many people aren't thinking of us. Even if we get five calls a day, that means over 250 million people in this country alone don't think we're worth talking to in any 24 hour period. Give it up. Anyone who wants to talk to you will call back.

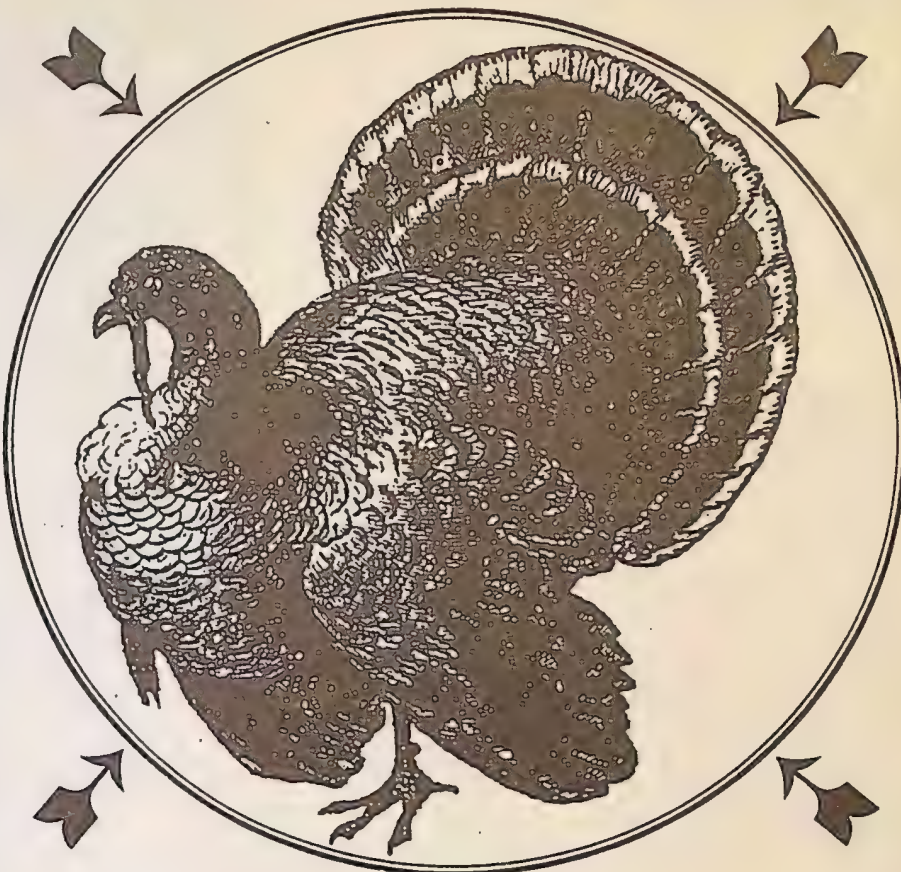


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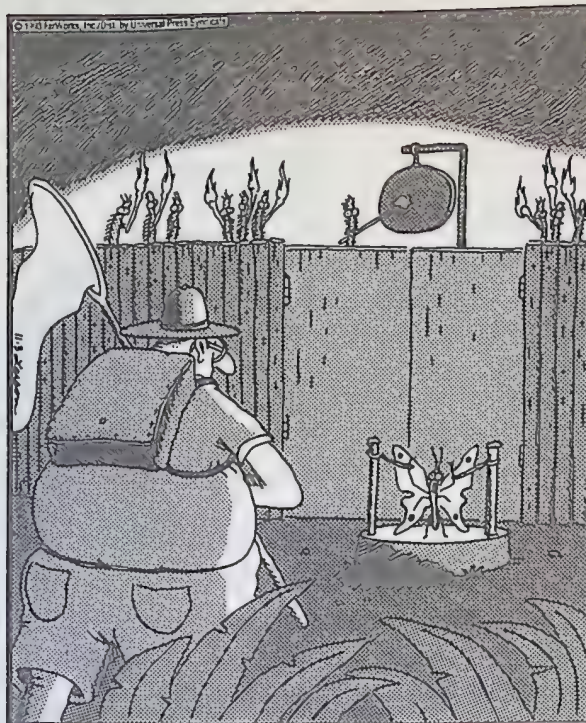
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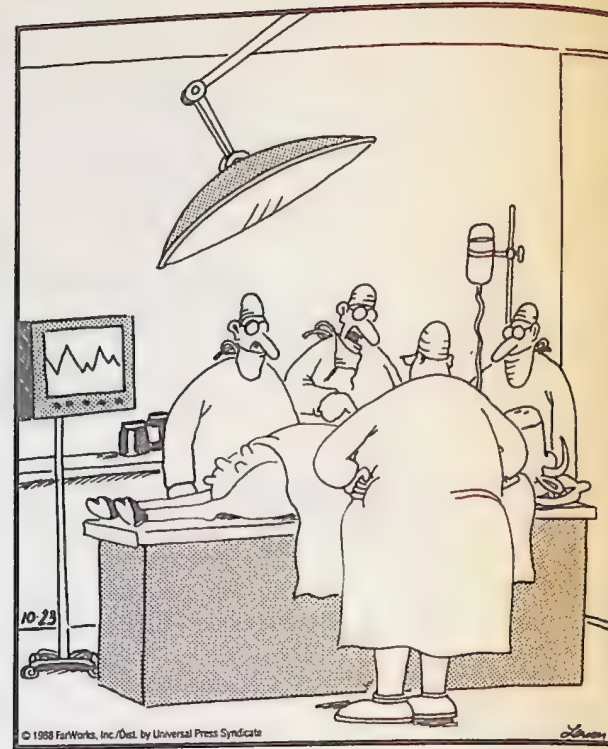
BY GARY LARSON



"Well, sir, my client says *he* wasn't having any fun, and that you just kept chasing him and chasing him around this little bush—and *that's* when he decided to pop you one."



Summoned by the gonging, Professor Crutchfield stepped into the clearing. The little caterpillars had done well this time in their offering.



"Well, we've done everything we can; now we can only wait and see if she pulls through. ... If she doesn't, however, I got dibs on these ribs right here."

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Fortunately, even the Boy Scouts who fail knot-tying get to go camping.



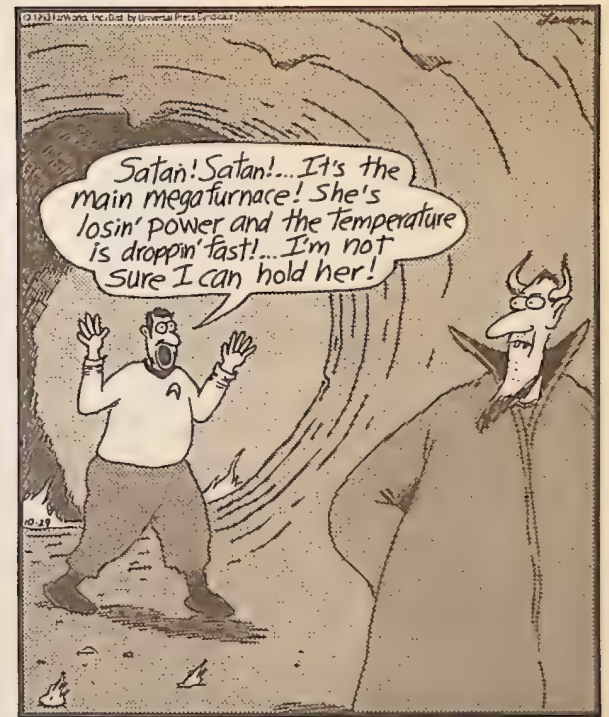
"Well, I've got good gnus and I've got bad gnus."



Headhunter hutwarming



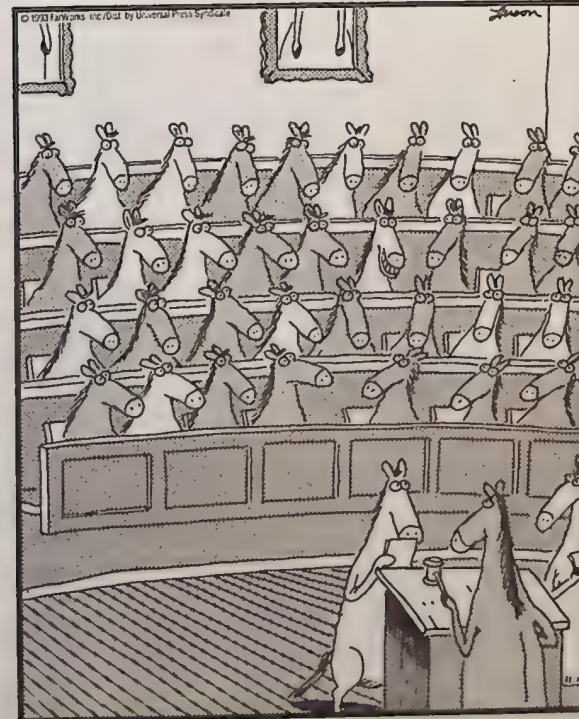
Some anthropologists believe that the discoveries of fire, shelter and language were almost simultaneous.



Scotty in hell



"Smash your left hand down about right here three times, then twice up in this area, then three times right about here. ... That's 'Louie Louie.'"



The entire parliament fell dead silent. For the first time since anyone could remember, one of the members voted "aye."



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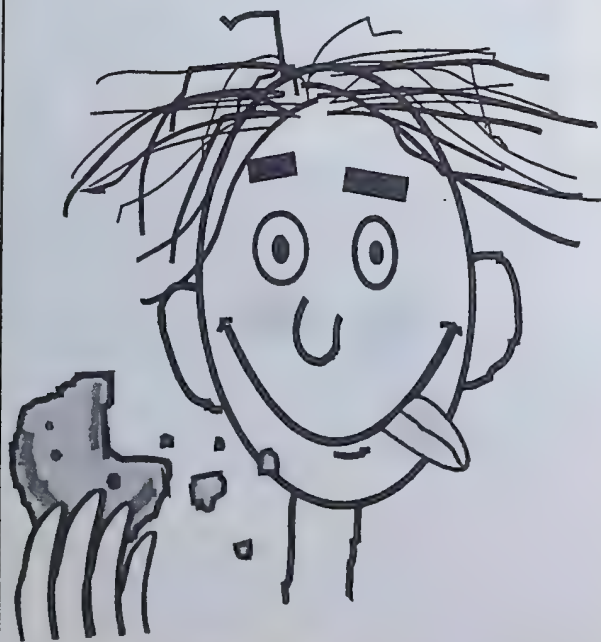
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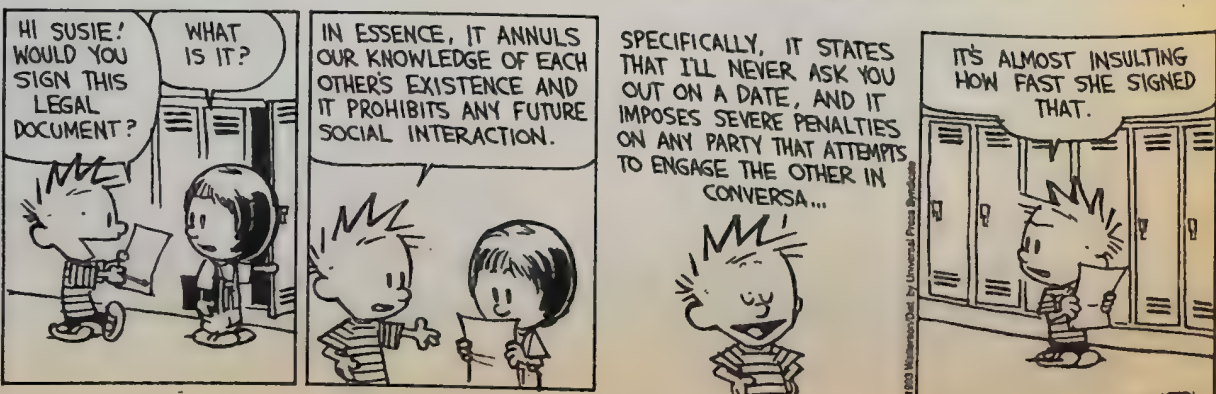
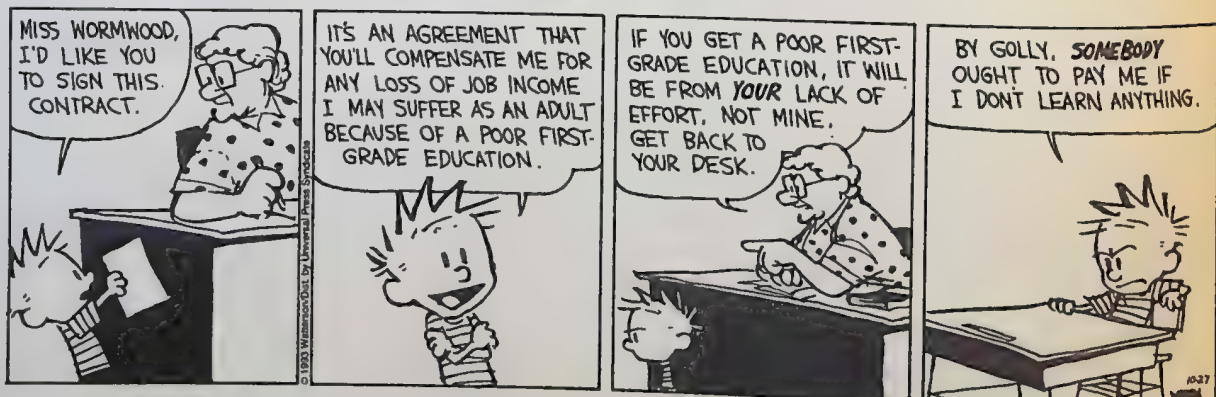
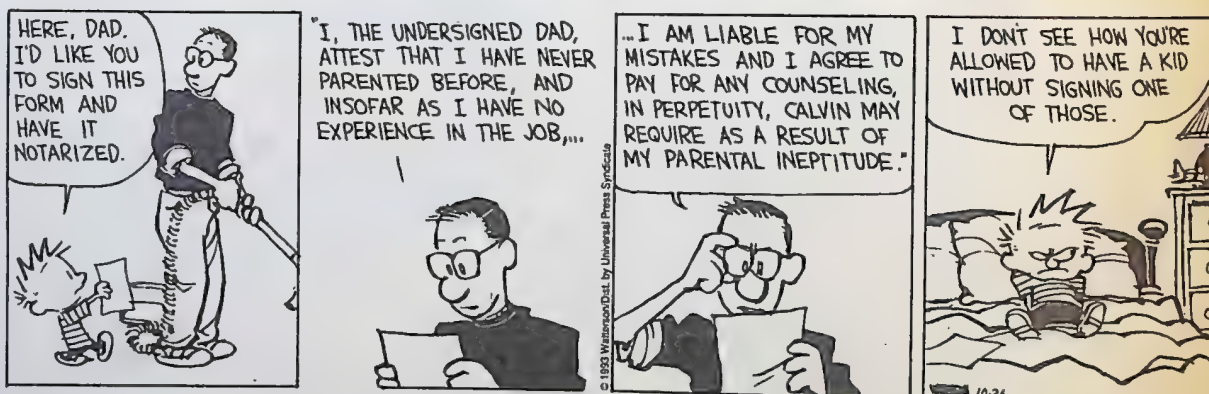
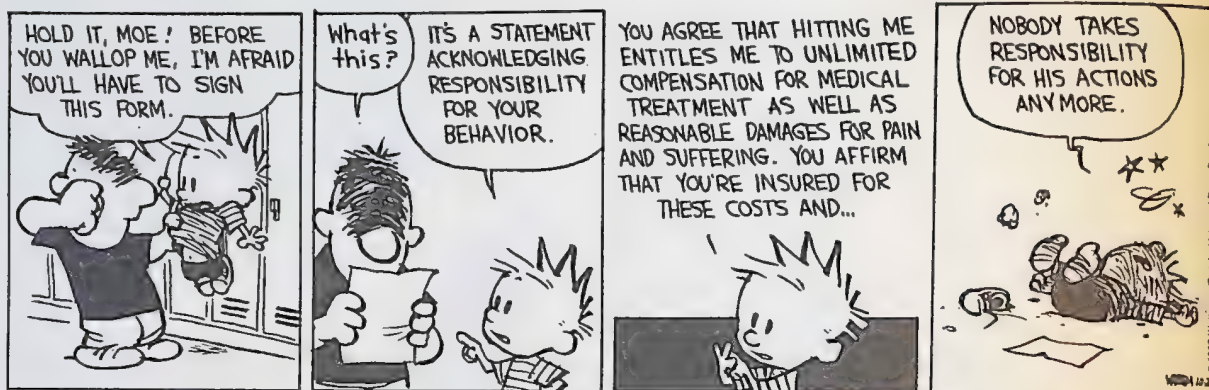


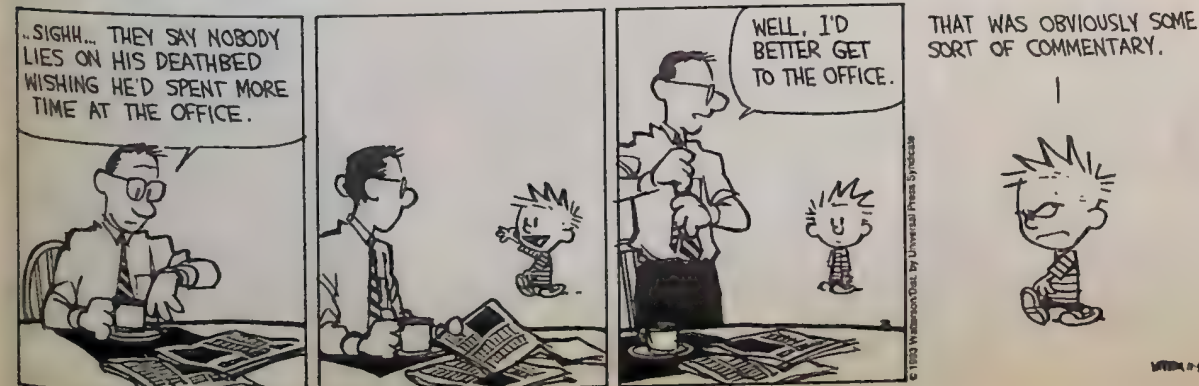
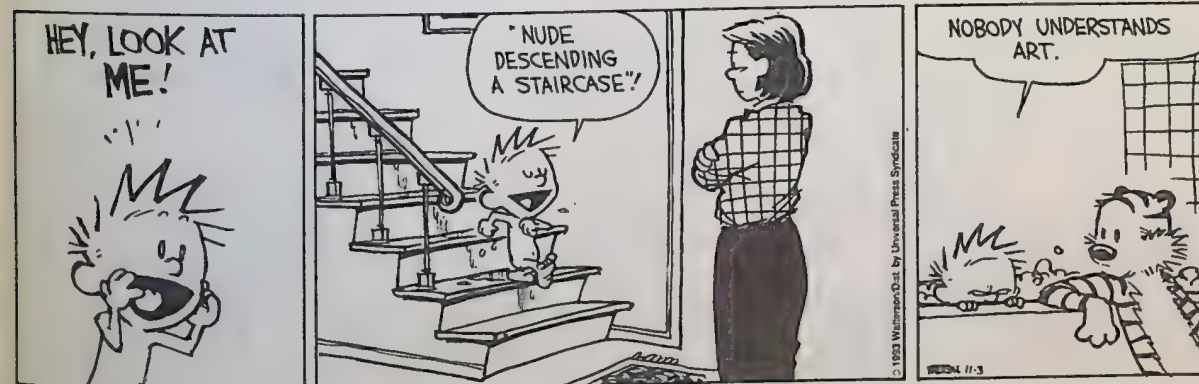
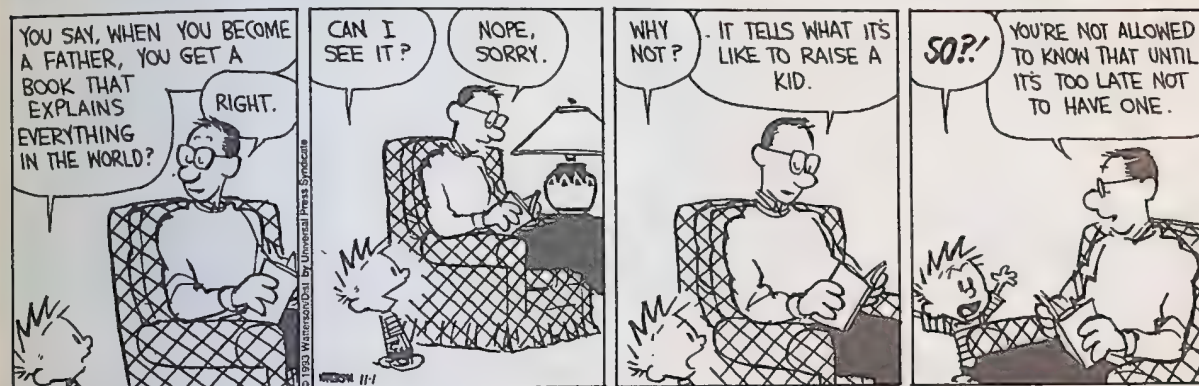
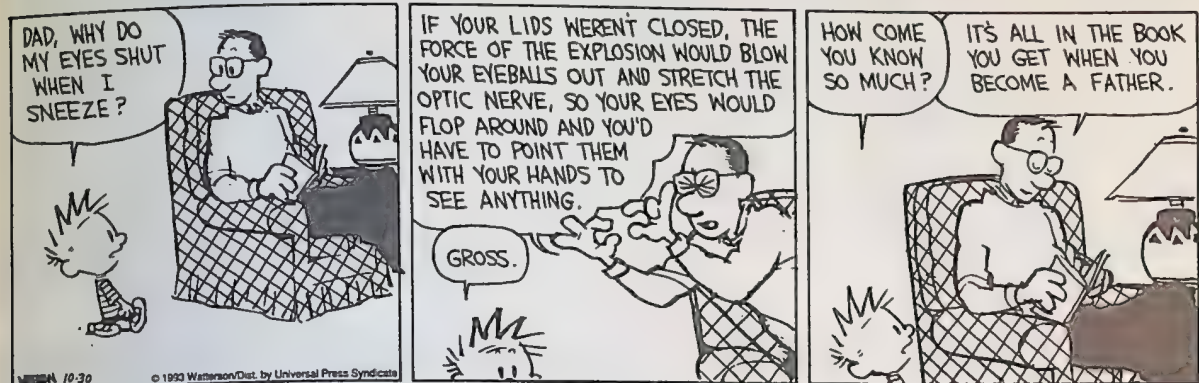
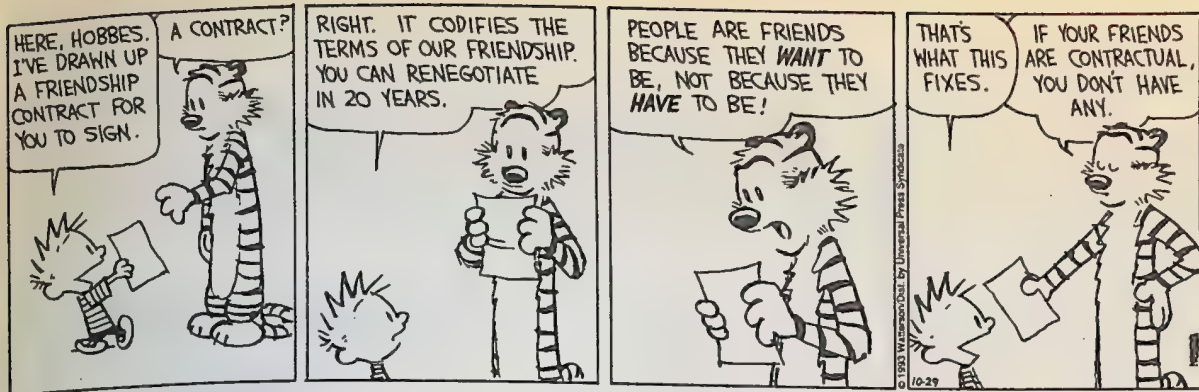
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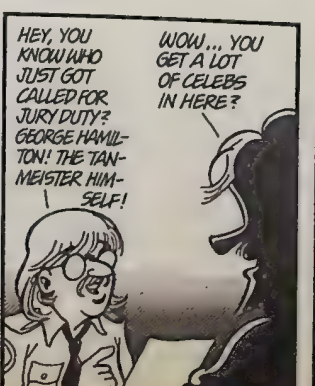
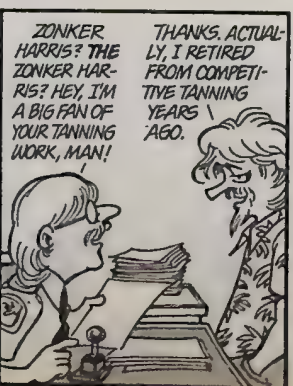
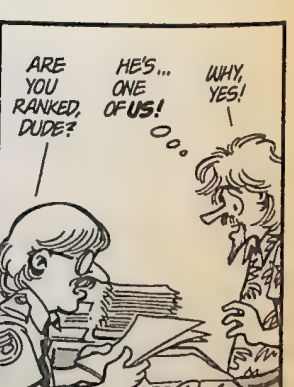
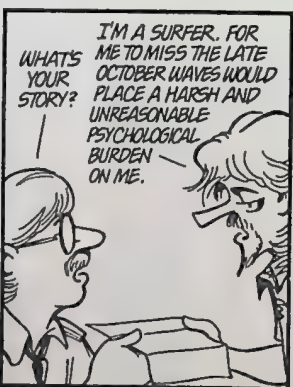
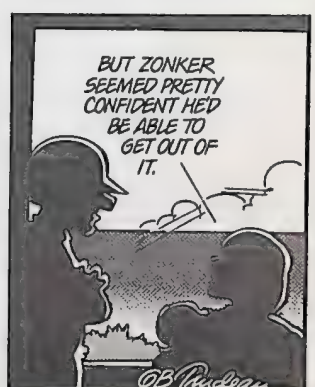
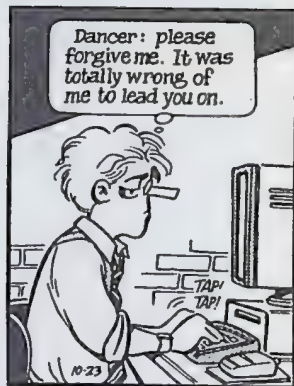
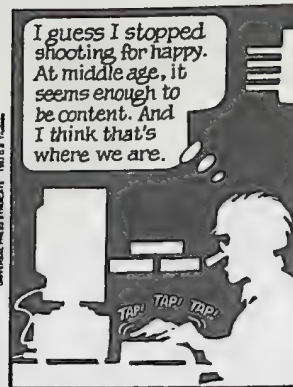
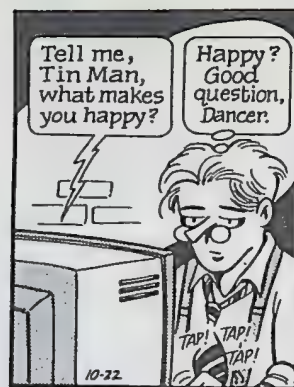
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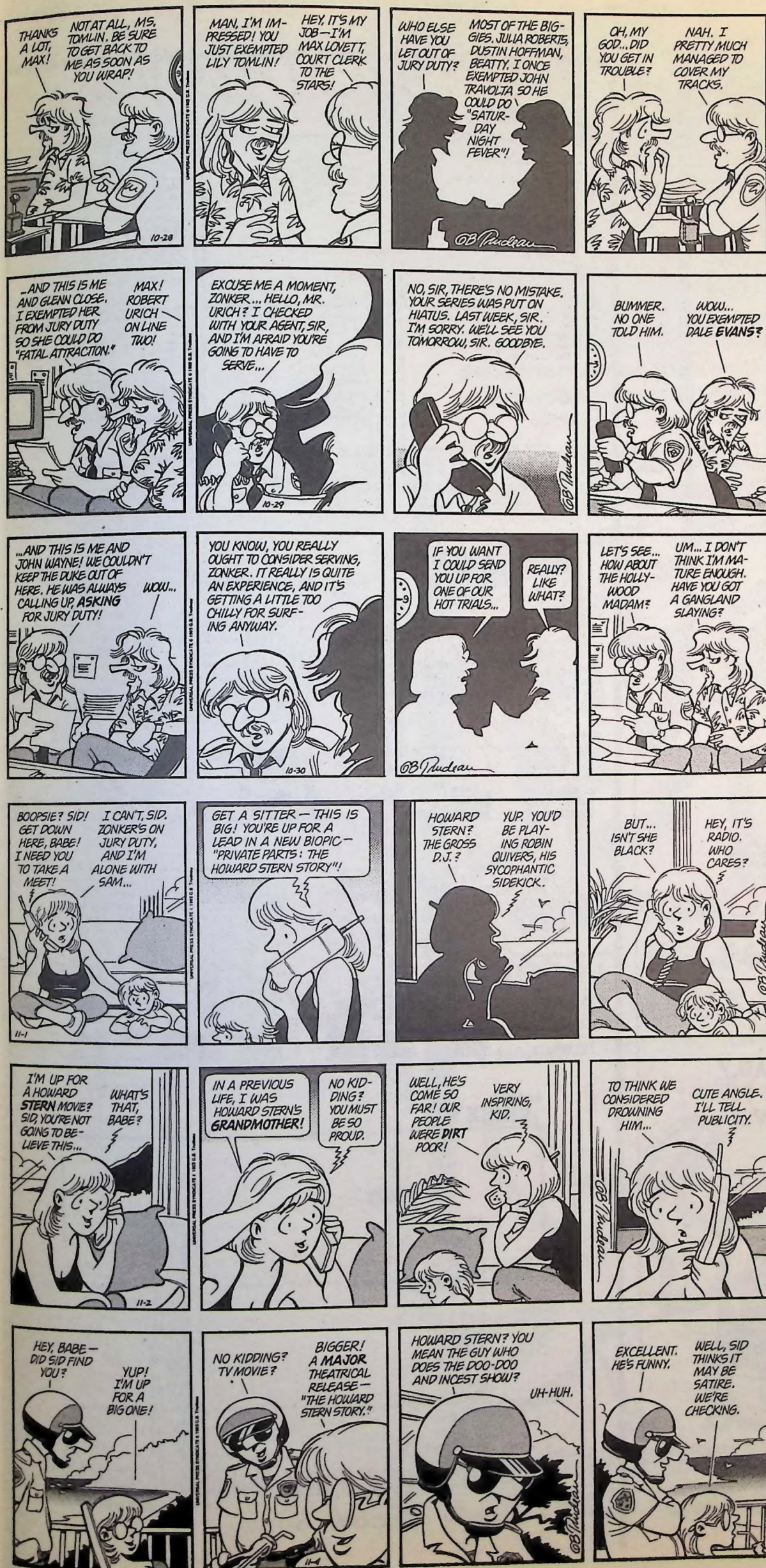
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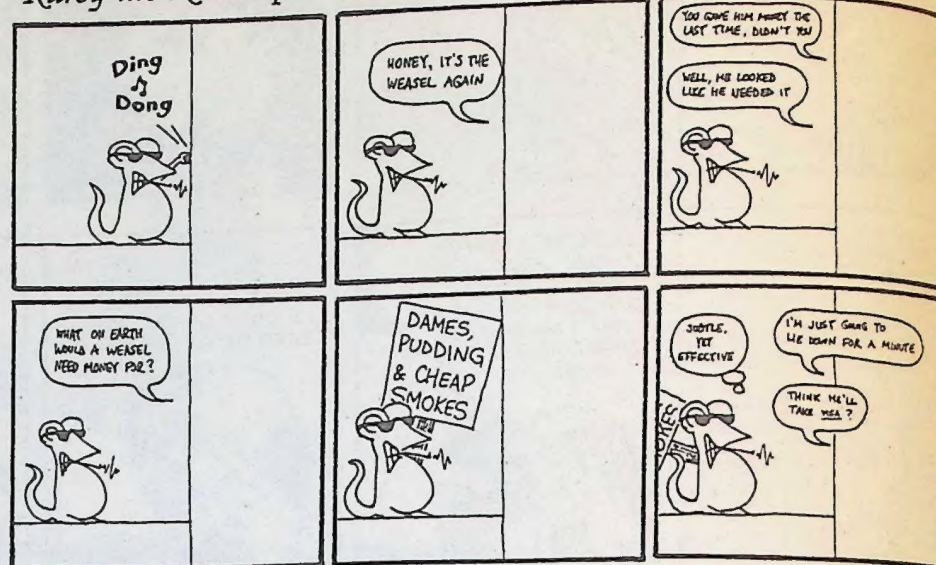
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Kilroy the Narcoleptic Weasel

by Mark Tennenhouse

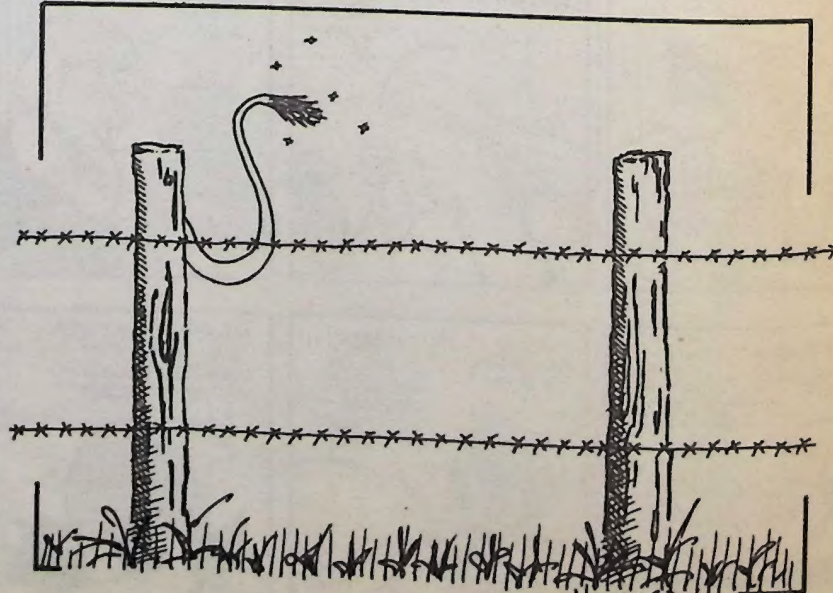


PRICE

By Price Van Ray



THINK'R



COW HIDE

# JOE BOB BRIGGS

I'm not a black female. I'm not a Puerto Rican lesbian. I'm not a Native American vegetarian or a fundamentalist or an Irish Catholic or a Libertarian or a gay Yuppie abortion-rights activist. I'm not a Mormon, an atheist, an agnostic, a Unitarian, or a tree-hugger.

And, as of today, I'm no longer a white heterosexual male, either.

I made up my mind. I quit. I'm not gonna be white, heterosexual or male anymore, and I'm not gonna be anything else, either. Every time I get a form with little boxes on it, asking me what I "am," I'm gonna make up a different answer, depending on how I feel that day.

Some days I'll be female. Some days I'll be bisexual. Some days I'll be a flaming triple-reverse transcendental upside-down cross-dressing she-male.

I'm gonna get a list of every ethnic group in the world, and pick my ethnic origins at random. Sometimes I'll be from the Canary Islands. On other days I'll be an Eskimo. For the IRS I'll be a Nigerian. For the Census Bureau I'll be of mixed Sri Lankan and Scottish heritage. For the Gallup Poll, I'll be an earnest advocate of independence for my native Fiji.

I'll join the Black Journalists Association. I don't think there is a White Journalists Association, but if there is, I'll join that, too. And then I'll join the Hispanic Journalists Association, and, shoot, why should I limit it by profession? I'll join the Hispanic *topless dancers* Association.

I figure it'll take me five, six years to get on every special-interest mailing list in America, but I'll do it. I'll be a member of the National Rifle Association, Greenpeace, the NAACP, the Southwestern Cattle Raisers, and Queer Nation.

I'll join every church in the Encyclopedia Britannica, from the Pentecostals to the Russian Orthodox. And I'll join every non-church, too, from peyote worshippers in New Mexico to New Age rock-kissers in Marin County.

I'll buy property in Texas, New York and California, so that I can claim citizenship everywhere, like George Bush. And I'll join a different political party in each state.

Can you imagine the kind of mail I'll get?

Can you imagine how many people will believe I'm their friend?

And all the time I'll be the only person who knows the complete and total truth:

I don't wanna belong to anything.

I don't wanna *be* anything.

I don't care where I came from, what other people have the same ethnic origins as me, or what color anybody's skin is.

I just wanna confuse the issue, mess up the statistics, confound everyone's expectations.

Because you know what I'm *really* sick of?

I'm sick of everybody choosing up sides all the time.

It doesn't matter, people; it *just doesn't* matter.

We're all exactly the same.

Get used to it.



Steve Nathan of Ware, Mass., reads *The Valley Comic News* in Tiananmen Square on the fourth anniversary of China's suppression of the pro-democracy movement.

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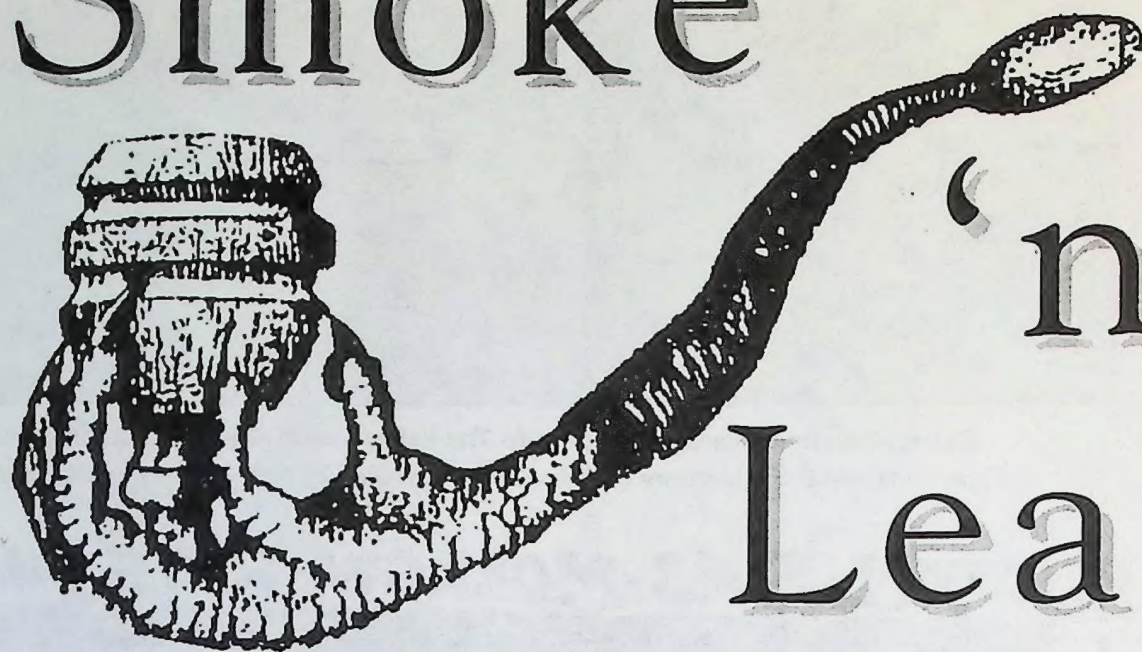
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